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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A storage system comprising:
- a storage array containing a plurality of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective class hierarchy; and
- a controller coupled to the storage device hierarchy and capable of executing an hierarchical storage management capability that selectively controls access to the hierarchy of storage devices.
- 2. The storage device according to Claim 1 wherein: the storage array contains an hierarchy of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective performance hierarchy.
- 3. The storage device according to Claim 1 further comprising: the storage array contains an hierarchy of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective economic or cost hierarchy.
- The storage device according to Claim 1 further comprising:
 a solid state cache and shared memory supplying storage for a level of hierarchical storage.
- 5. The storage device according to Claim 1 further comprising: relatively higher performance Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) and/or Fibre Channel (FC) storage devices supplying storage for a level of hierarchical storage.
- 6. The storage device according to Claim 1 further comprising: relatively lower performance Serial AT-attached (SATA) storage devices supplying storage for a level of hierarchical storage.
- 7. The storage device according to Claim 1 further comprising: a solid state cache and shared memory supplying storage for a first level of hierarchical storage;

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- relatively higher performance Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) and/or Fibre Channel (FC) storage devices supplying storage for a second level of hierarchical storage;
- relatively lower performance Serial AT-attached (SATA) storage devices supplying storage for a level of hierarchical storage; and a process executable in the controller allocates storage capacity of the SATA storage devices to low access customer data and to short-term and unpredictable storage usage.
- 8. The storage device according to Claim 7 further comprising: an hierarchical storage management controller for usage within a disk array utilizing Fibre Channel (FC) and SATA disk drives and that allocates SATA storage as uncommitted and unstructured storage.
- 9. The storage device according to Claim 7 further comprising: an hierarchical storage management controller for usage within a disk array utilizing Fibre Channel (FC) and SATA disk drives and that allocates SATA storage for intra-array and/or inter-array data transfers including logical unit (LUN) copies and snapshots.
- 10. A method of managing information storage in a storage system comprising:
 - enclosing an hierarchy of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective class hierarchy within a storage array; and selectively controlling information access to the hierarchy of storage devices within the storage array.
 - 11. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising: coupling an hierarchy of storage devices into the storage array including at least three types having a respective performance hierarchy.
 - 12. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising: coupling an hierarchy of storage devices into the storage array including at least three types having a respective economic or cost hierarchy.

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- 13. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising: combining an hierarchy of storage devices into the storage array including at least a volatile shared memory, a relatively higher performance non-volatile storage, and a relatively lower performance non-volatile storage.
- 14. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising:

 combining an hierarchy of storage devices into the storage array including at least
 a solid state cache and shared memory supplying storage for a first level of
 hierarchical storage, relatively higher performance Small Computer
 Systems Interface (SCSI) and/or Fibre Channel (FC) storage devices
 supplying storage for a second level of hierarchical storage, and relatively
 lower performance Serial AT-attached (SATA) storage devices supplying
 storage for a level of hierarchical storage.
- 15. The method according to Claim 14 further comprising: allocating storage capacity of the SATA storage devices to low access customer data and to short-term and unpredictable storage usage.
- 16. The method according to Claim 14 further comprising: allocating SATA storage as uncommitted and unstructured storage.
- 17. The method according to Claim 14 further comprising:allocating SATA storage for intra-array and/or inter-array data transfers including logical unit (LUN) copies and snapshots.
- 18. A storage system comprising:
- a disk array containing an hierarchy of storage disks of at least two types and having a respective class hierarchy; and
- a controller coupled to the disk array and capable of executing an hierarchical storage management capability that selectively controls access to the hierarchy of storage disks.

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- 19. The storage system according to Claim 18 further comprising:a cache memory coupled to the controller and operable as an additional storage in the class hierarchy.
- 20. The storage system according to Claim 18 further comprising: an hierarchy of storage devices having a respective performance hierarchy.
- 21. The storage system according to Claim 18 further comprising: an hierarchy of storage devices having a respective economic or cost hierarchy.
- 22. The storage system according to Claim 18 further comprising: a cabinet enclosing the disk array and the controller.
- 23. The storage system according to Claim 18 further comprising: relatively higher performance Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) and/or Fibre Channel (FC) disks supplying storage for a first level of hierarchical storage;
- relatively lower performance Serial AT-attached (SATA) disks supplying storage for a level of hierarchical storage; and
- a process executable in the controller allocates storage capacity of the SATA disks to low access customer data and to short-term and unpredictable storage usage.
- 24. An article of manufacture comprising:
- a controller usable medium having a computable readable program code embodied therein for managing a storage system, the computable readable program code further comprising:
 - a code capable of causing the controller to intercommunicate among an hierarchy of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective class hierarchy within a storage array; and
 - a code capable of causing the controller to selectively control information access to the hierarchy of storage devices within the storage array.

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25. A storage system comprising:

means for coupling an hierarchy of storage devices of at least three types and having a respective class hierarchy within a storage array; and means for selectively controlling information access to the hierarchy of storage devices within the storage array.